

TO THE CANNON'S MOUTH.

A Tale of the Sepoy Mutiny.

BY L. J. BEESTON.

FOILED in his attempt to escape, Major Arthur Fitzgerald-Lancelles sat near to a corner of the dungeon and watched the tarantulas. The tarantulas, bodies elephed on hairy legs, regarded the or. Their name was legion. Upon projecting angle, from floor to ing, hideous, fat, loathsome, they ed patiently.

Close by the Major, with chin rest- upon drawn-up knees, sat Colo- nial John Halliwell. This man as eyes for the tarantulas; his was introspective. Strange re- crawled over his motionless feet, he heeded them not. At times companion swore, loudly and ly. The Color-Sergeant uttered word. Occasionally the former ed and stamped round the dis- apartment; the latter never raised head.

The dungeon was subterranean to extent of ten feet. High up on side of the room an opening re- buling a balustrade admitted cross of feeble light. The massive e were mired with damp and the hoarse air. At intervals the eed swelled into huge drops and ed upon the green floor. Some- e one fell upon a spider and made shiver; but the tarantulas never ed, only just waited, waited.

At an hour in this dungeon would ed a savage dog. Yet into an and threw his brother man, eom did it belong? To the Rajah eed better known as Nana e of execrable memory. e year '57, when the flames of eion swept over India, every day



HE CLEARED THE GUN WITH ONE SUPERB BOUND.

ought with incidents dramatic, pathetic, terrible. The follow- ing narration of one such inci- dent of a friend's thought, madman's exultation, of the e of the Tiger of Cawnpore.

ii.

Color-Sergeant John Halliwell, of his kind, loved his life. e was about to lose it; that e him grave. He also loved e. The loss of the one implied e of the other; this made him Presently he looked towards epanion, and seemed about to e. Then, thinking better of it, e once more lost in meditation. e asked himself, should he e the confession? Probably he e harshly rebuked for him e he would draw upon him e Major's wrath, and all to e seeing that death lay just e that little iron door. But e such an hour a man yearns e his heart to his fellow. Pos- e, his companion might e and though he might refuse the e of the living, yet the message ead is sacred.

er," he began—peril had bred e between the superior and eordinate—"Major, I have e to tell you."

Major's knitted brows relaxed, ead in his walk.

did not believe, sir, that I eght my last battle, my secret ead remained unrevealed. It e possible that one of us may e again. If that one should e, sir, will you deliver a e from me?"

certainly, Halliwell. What eage, sir, to your daughter e, whom heaven preserve ead gone mad! I love her, e angel. I cannot help it. e angel of my life."

ound it, sir! But I am angry, e angry, too! By jove, you e my friend."

not disturb you, sir. Life e given her to me—I had e not have done; for, had I e miserably caught, I would e promotion at this time, e and glory lie within the e every brave man. And e with all respect, my lineage e comparison with yours. But e, Dundoo Pant's word is ean yours, Major. Only I e you, sir, should you elude ees of this most infamous e Nana Sahib, to tell ead self, Major met his end e, thinking of her bonny eaven reflected therein."

ake John Halliwell, know- e of the terror to come "

The next instant the Major had gone.

iii.

In a few moments he appeared in the court and took his station in front of the iron shield, facing the gun. Two Sepoys held him by the arms, awaiting the signal. Halliwell could see it all clearly; the loading of the gun, the careful adjustment of the fuse.

"He will never do it," groaned the Color-Sergeant. "He's too fat. He'll be blown to shivers."

Suddenly the man at the gun raised his hand and touched off the fuse. At the same instant the Major was pushed forward. He bounded with great swiftness down the passage, so narrow that he had scarcely room to swing his arms. In a trice he had covered a quarter of the ground—a half—three-quarters. Then Halliwell cried, "Merciful Powers!" for a horrible jet of red flame burst from the cannon's mouth.

A man's body cannot check a charge of grape shot, so the missiles came on, all bloody, and smashed into the iron shield. Major Lancelles had been blown to pieces. The watchers at the window heard the patter of a ghastly rain upon the stones.

Halliwell turned his face to the prince, to show him that a soldier can look upon a soldier's death and not flinch. The Nana's dusky skin had paled a little. He took some grapes from a dish, and ate them slowly. Then he turned to one of his retainers.

"The cursed Feringhee has lost a dinner."

The man smiled and bowed without replying.

"This one is thin. Think you he will run faster?"

"Your highness will have the better sport. Dundoo Pant traced a pattern with his foot upon the cloth of silver. His brow grew sullen; he seemed to anticipate the vengeance of a Havelock. Presently he said:

"Let him try."

Halliwell was led from the apartment. He paid no heed to the changed scene. A face swam before his eyes, the face of a woman into whose heart a great sorrow would shortly come, a woman left fatherless. The vision lent him strength, gave courage to his sinking heart and vigor to his limbs, which privation and imprisonment had weakened.

Then he realized that he was facing the grim muzzle of the cannon. Never runner toed the mark in so dreadful a race. He saw the gunner attending to his piece, watched him brush away the priming, and carefully reload. His feelings were indescribable. The sunlight flashing on the steel trunnions dazzled his eyes. He clenched his hands, clenched his teeth.

"For life and love," he muttered, "and the rest with God."

Suddenly he received a violent push, and knew that the fearful sprint had commenced.

Have you ever, in the grip of night-mare, run from one who follows fast? You strive to fly, but your feet cling to the ground, and you only crawl. The sensation is maddening. So it was with John Halliwell. The stone flaz seemed glued to his limbs; in reality he scarcely touched them at all. Every nerve, every muscle of the man were engaged in the frightful struggle. The gunner, who stood by his piece, recoiled with amazement from the face of the Englishman, who, rushing down upon him, cleared the gun with one superb bound, even as the leaden death roared out.

The Color-Sergeant waited not to test the verity of the Rajah's word, and the invitation to dinner failed to tempt him just then. He continued his rapid course, through the maze of mud-huts and cocoa-palms, over the baked plain, and finally plunged into the river, which bore him, half-swimming, half-floating upon its deep and even current. The Nana never saw his prisoner again.

The Color-Sergeant had won his life. Two years subsequently Lieutenant-Colonel John Halliwell won a prize even more dear to him.—Cassell's Magazine.

Frost and its Formation.

A farmer's bulletin on the subject of protection from frost has been prepared by E. B. Garriett, professor of meteorology of the weather bureau, at Washington. The bulletin defines frost and the conditions which favor its formation, and gives the methods of protection which have been found practicable by experiments. It tells when to expect frosts and describes devices for preventing the rapid radiation of heat, for charging the air with moisture, and for adding moisture to the air. Some facts regarding frosts, which are destructive alike to tender vegetation and to plants of hardier growth, are also given. The bulletin says that in the dry climate of the citrus fruit region of California and in the promising fruit districts of Arizona small and numerous fires, preferably of coal burned in iron baskets, have been found to be the most effective device used for protection against frost; second in point of utility may be placed irrigation; the practical process which affords the least protection appears to be smudge fires. In the orange-growing districts of the South irrigation affords the most effective protection against frost, while in regions where this process can not be employed damp smudge fires, properly handled, are best adapted to general use.

Capacity of a Baggage Car.

A large baggage car will hold about 200 trunks, a small one about 150 trunks. At terminal stations no baggage master in the car will have a man to help him handle the baggage and stack it as it comes in. The baggage is piled, of course, with a view to its convenient distribution at the stations where it is to go. It is also stacked so that the checks and marks can be read easily, and it is piled in such a way that it will ride to the best advantage and with the least likelihood of damage; all the work of an expert in the handling of baggage.

Ton of Horseshoes Returned One by One.

Four Bethlehem boys, who stole nearly a ton of horseshoes from a blacksmith, were compelled to carry them back, one by one, through the main street of the town, and were then forgiven. The lads traveled 27 miles apiece in returning the stolen property, and were then publicly spanked by their parents.—Philadelphia Record.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City (Special).—For out-door children's garments the new models show a somewhat puzzling variety. First of all, jackets of all



PELISSE FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

shapes and lengths, and pelisses covering the skirt, then there are capes which will be much more worn than last year.

These are made round with but little trimming and reaching slightly below the waistline. They are frequently constituted with small pellicanes, one, two or even three, superimposed, and fastening at the foot of the collar by loops and buttons, so that they can be added or not at will.

They are chiefly made in cloth or Scotch tweed, and many have plaid pellicanes, covering the shoulders only and forming the trimming, or the long cape itself is plaid and the smaller ones plain.

In the accompanying cut, reproduced from the Dry Goods Economist, is shown a coat-shaped pelisse for girl



SOME NEW HATS.

of five years. The material is white cloth. The revers of white velvet, stitched, are repeated on the cuffs and pockets. Three double rows of round crystal buttons ornament the front.

For young children, say from five to eight, jackets are mostly made loose with straight backs and fronts, with turned-back revers and no collar.

Hats in Endless Profusion.

Hats for the season now at its height present a bewildering display. They are weighted with fruits and berries, leaves and blossoms which have been turned by the sun and frost in the workrooms. Straws the like of which never have been seen in a field are presented in combinations which require great courage to wear.

A toque of several shades of violet velvet in bands, interlaced with a black Paradise feather, fastened by a jeweled rosette, is among the recent styles, and is suitable for evening wear.

For visiting there is a broad-brimmed straw, lifted at the sides underneath by velvet bows and bands. It has three waving ostrich plumes, and pendant from the back are black mousseline de soie strings, which are tied under the chin a little to the side.

Most becoming to a young face is another broad hat in green fancy straw. Swathed around its crown is mousseline, the lightest shade of green. Clusters of cherries and their leaves finish the combination.

Brimms are all wide in the new hats. One, loaded with autumn flowers, with loops of wired black velvet ribbon wreathed over them, is a charming creation, but this, too, is fastened by velvet ties.

The ever serviceable if not always appropriate sailor is to be found in all sorts and conditions among the new millinery. Those which are trimmed with ribbon or wide velvet in loops at the back are the only novelties in this line.

Gray Fashionable For Weddings.

The most charming materials for gowns to be worn at the weddings of the season are designed in gray crepe de chine garnished with gray pearl embroidery, and with such a gown a very flat-topped turban of gray silk, wound with a scarf of pearl bedewed white chiffon, is the smart and proper thing. No note of color is thought well of in connection with these very neutral harmonies, and for all stately affairs it is interesting to learn that

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

Macadam Roads.

"As the necessity for good roads increases, more frequent attempts are made by the country road builders to construct stone or macadam roads. Failures are especially numerous in respect to the methods adopted," says Otto Dörner, Chairman of the L. A. W. Highway Improvement Committee.

"We may expect that, in time, the construction of stone roads will become as familiar to farmers as the growing of wheat, but at present there is very little general information on the subject.

The two points to be observed in building stone roads are, first, to provide a proper foundation, and second, to roll and compact the stone metal with the utmost thoroughness. To begin with, the subsoil, which is to serve as a foundation for the stone, must be properly crowned, sloping down from the middle to each side of the road, and must then be rolled until it is absolutely hard and smooth. The road should take its shape from the shape of the foundation. The stone is but a covering or roof for the protection of the ground beneath. In order that this roof may be solid, it must rest upon something absolutely firm. A soft earth bottom cannot support a stone roadway intended for ordinary heavy travel. Where the road is built upon low ground, the foundation should be drained as well.

"The stone used should be put down in layers not more than four inches thick, and it is well, where several layers of stone are used, to sort the material and to use the larger pieces for the lower layer. This sorting is done by means of a rotary screen attached to the rock crusher. In building macadam roads in Massachusetts and Ontario, the lower layer is usually composed of stone which will pass through a hole two and one-half inches in diameter. The second layer usually consists of pieces which will pass through a one and one-half inch hole.

"Rolling is the most important point in the treatment of macadam or stone roads. A heavy roller should always be used, heavy enough to wedge the pieces of stone firmly together. The roller accomplishes this by shifting the pieces about until each is lodged firmly between adjoining pieces, which readily explains the greater effectiveness of the heavy machine. Two things may prevent successful rolling; either the failure to provide a solid foundation, or the practice, which is very common, of spreading gravel or dirt over a layer of stone before it is rolled. The idea of using such a 'binder' is a bad mistake. In either event, the dirt or gravel, getting between the loose particles of stone, will prevent their becoming firmly wedged. A mixing of stone and earth, which is thus frequently brought about in an attempt to build a macadam road, is little better than an ordinary dirt road; indeed, it is inferior in some particulars. The material in a road thus constructed is sure to shift about under the pressure of passing narrow tired wheels, which result in the larger pieces of stone working their way to the top, rendering the road rough and uncomfortable for travel. The best way to help the stone to 'bind' is to thoroughly sprinkle it with water before and during the rolling process. Almost every kind of stone has more or less cementing qualities, and its saturation with water while it is being rolled serves admirably to help unite the different pieces firmly. The second layer of stone is frequently of less thickness than the layer below. This layer should also be thoroughly and repeatedly rolled without the use of gravel or dirt as a supposed binder, and with the use of abundant water to help in cementing it. After the layers of stone are entirely completed and have been thoroughly rolled and packed, it is well to spread a layer of gravel, by the way of top dressing, and to roll that thoroughly. Better still is to make this layer of stone screenings, which will unite better than gravel does. This dressing will prevent wearing the macadam road proper, and, as it disappears with use and travel, should be renewed from time to time, leaving the stone construction below absolutely perfect."

The Anti-Rut Agitation.

Massachusetts roads are costing all the way from \$6000 to \$25,000 per mile.

All money spent on repairing earth roads becomes each year a total loss without materially improving their condition.

Whatever road material you use will in time need careful repairs by men skilled in this work. The old adage "A stitch in time saves nine," applies here.

The total cost of maintaining roads in good order ranges, on account of varying conditions, between as wide limits almost as the initial cost of construction.

A plan of road building should be adopted in every State, city and town, and at least a portion of carried out each year and the different materials should only be used in their proper place, according to the different conditions that exist in each and every street.

Dirt roads are, as a rule, the most expensive roads that can be used, while on the other hand stone roads, if properly constructed of good material and kept in perfect condition, are the most satisfactory, the cheapest, and most economical roads that can be constructed.

The road that will best suit the needs of the farmer, in the first place, must not be too costly; and, in the second place, must be of the very best kind, for farmers should be able to do their heavy hauling over them when their fields are too wet to work and their team would otherwise be idle.

New Jersey is building more roads; and better roads for less money per mile than any other State in the Union. Their roads are now costing from twenty to seventy cents per square yard. Where the telford construction is used they sometimes cost as much as seventy-three cents per square yard.

THE HORSE'S OPINION.

Tell us you will your lever and wheel; Back your poor brains in the conflict for fame; Trench your eyes in a scholarly snarl To find this contrivance of yours with a name.

"Tis my turn at last. Where the meadows are green and the flowers are in bloom, I nibble and belch and my hind leg-toss. My heart is so enjoyed and my mind is so serene. Here's a play day at last. I'm the carriageless horse."

—Washington Star.

PITH AND POINT.

Mrs. Smythe—"I wonder why old china is so rare and valuable." Mrs. De Jones—"Why, I thought you kept a servant."

A—"It is when a man is in trouble that he knows the value of a wife." B—"Yes; he can put all his property in her name."

"Envy umbrellas to mend, mister?" "None to mend and none to lend; the last one was stolen yesterday."—Ohio State Journal.

"There goes one of these women's rights reformers." "How do you know?" "Don't you see his wife is carrying the baby?"

He was a great composer. And opened his vocal wires. But he couldn't compose his youngest. When he walked him round at night. —Chicago News.

Lena—"Fred must be in love with you." Edith—"Why do you think so?" Lena—"He asked me if I didn't think you were pretty."—Boston Globe.

"Ah, but Count," she cried, "do you love me for myself alone?" "Yes," he replied, "you are your father's only child."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Customer—"I want to buy a hat." Hatter—"Yes, sir. Would you like a high hat?" Customer—"No. I want something for about a dollar and a half."—Tid-Bits.

"I used to have beans to beat the band," said the wedded coquette. "And now, I suppose," responded her husband, "you think you've a husband to beat the carpet? Well, you're mistaken."

Cynthia—"What position do you hold in the engine works. Mr. Frisby?" Alex. Frisby—"I just do odd jobs—sewing on electric buttons and watering the steam-plant."—Princeton Tiger.

"At least," said the artist who was engaged in painting a portrait of the President of the Fat Men's Club, "this is one picture the critics can't accuse of lack of breadth and color."—Indianapolis Journal.

The Guide—"Now you sit right here; don't move, and watch for the leer through the opening." Amateur Sportsman—"When do you think he'll be along?" The Guide—"Oh, some time this week."—Harper's Bazar.

"My dear," said Mrs. Hunewell, as she poured the coffee at breakfast the other morning, "do you believe in the eternal fitness of things?" "I used to," replied Hunewell, "but that was before you began to make my shirts."—Chicago News.

Ambitious Wife—"You were the champion football player at college, weren't you?" Meek Husband—"Yes, m'dear. Why?" Ambitious Wife—"Oh, nothing, nothing. Only that ten-a-week clerk is in the parlor with our daughter again."—Standard.

"Johnnie," said the father, sternly, "your school teacher writes me that you do not behave yourself." "Yes, sir," replied the boy. "She says I'm as bad as you were, pop." Whereupon the parent went upstairs to enjoy alone the laugh over old times.—Philadelphia North American.

"Now that you are about to marry," remarked the fond mamma to her only daughter, "it behooves me to speak plainly. You have had your own way all your life, but that must end." "Why, mamma?" exclaimed the prospective bride. "George will let me do just as I please." "Rather George?" retorted the fond mamma. "I'm thinking that you will have to have a cook."—Philadelphia Record.

Told of Daniel Boone.

"What yer goin'?"

"When yer goin'?"

"Goin' now, stranger?"

"Ain't got no boat. How you goin' ter get erover?"

"Boat! Think erick like this here's goin' ter stop me? Goin' ter ride across, stranger?"

He meant what he said, for the speaker was Daniel Boone, and he sat his horse, gun in hand, on the bluffs where the custom house now stands and gazed across that "erick," the mighty Mississippi, toward the west, "whar he waz goin'."

This was further back than the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Memphis extends, but tradition says that it took ten men to hold Daniel in keep him from wading his horse across the Mississippi.—Memphis Evening Scimitar.

The Market at Halifax.

The market in Halifax, N. S., always draws many visitors. Up and down and across parts of a dozen streets men, women and children squat upon the sidewalks or tend their stands from the rear of dilapidated carts or other vehicles. Everything that grows in that part of the country is offered for sale in these open markets, especially wild produce, berries, herbs and flowers. Home-made cheese, preserves and the like are set alongside of the measure of potatoes, a pair of ducks, a basket of clams, a half lamb and a basket of berries. Birch bark and sweet grass are utilized by the Indians, who stolidly insist upon two prices for their gaudy baskets and toy canoes.

Slightly Absent Minded.

"Does your husband ever help you about taking care of the baby?" was asked the wife of a young professor in a neighboring city.

"Not often, though sometimes he does. Last evening he said he'd take Willie for an airing as he was going to walk down to the postoffice. Half an hour later I saw my husband sitting on the porch reading a scientific magazine, but I could see nothing of the baby."

"Where's Willie? What have you done with him?" I asked.

"Why?" said the professor. "I forgot all about him; I think he is sitting in the postoffice."—Detroit Free Press.